# United States European Command Quality of Life Conference 2008

The overall classification of this briefing is **UNCLASSIFIED**

**COL Phil Smith**
**Director, HQ EUCOM Manpower, Personnel, and Administration Directorate**

# QoL Vision

Quality of life programs and services are the foundation of our warfighting effectiveness. As we transform to meet new emerging mission requirements, we owe it to our service members and their families to provide a safe, productive and enriching environment. We remain committed to provide quality services to our people… our most valuable asset.

**General Bantz J. Craddock, USA**
**EUCOM Commander**

## FY 08 Priorities

- Deployment & Counseling Support for Service Members & Families
- Support for Child, Youth, & Teen Programs
- Quality of Life MILCON & Funding
- Predictable Access to Healthcare
- Advocacy for Service Member Benefits & Entitlements

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# EUCOM Area of Responsibility

Eurasia

Western Europe

Kazakhstan

Southeast Europe

PACOM AOR

North Africa

CENTCOM AOR

West Africa

Central Africa

East Africa

South Africa

## Military Strength

**USAREUR**

**46,800**
**USAFE**

**26,960**
**NAVEUR**

**6,580**
**MARFOREUR**

**140**

## 92 Countries

- **35% of earth's landmass**
- **60% of planet's coastline**
- **20% of the Earth's waters**
- **23% of world population**

## Over 240K People In 92 Countries

# QoL Process

COM EUCOM QoL ACTION PLAN

QoL Steering Committee

USEUCOM QoL Survey

QoL Conference

Grassroots Feedback

HQ EUCOM J1 Research

Component Research

Component Commanders Conference

HQ EUCOM Quality of Life Team

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| NAVEUR | USAREUR | SOCEUR |
| MARFOREUR | USAFE | AFRICOM |

# Senior Leader Engagement

Senior Leader Feedback

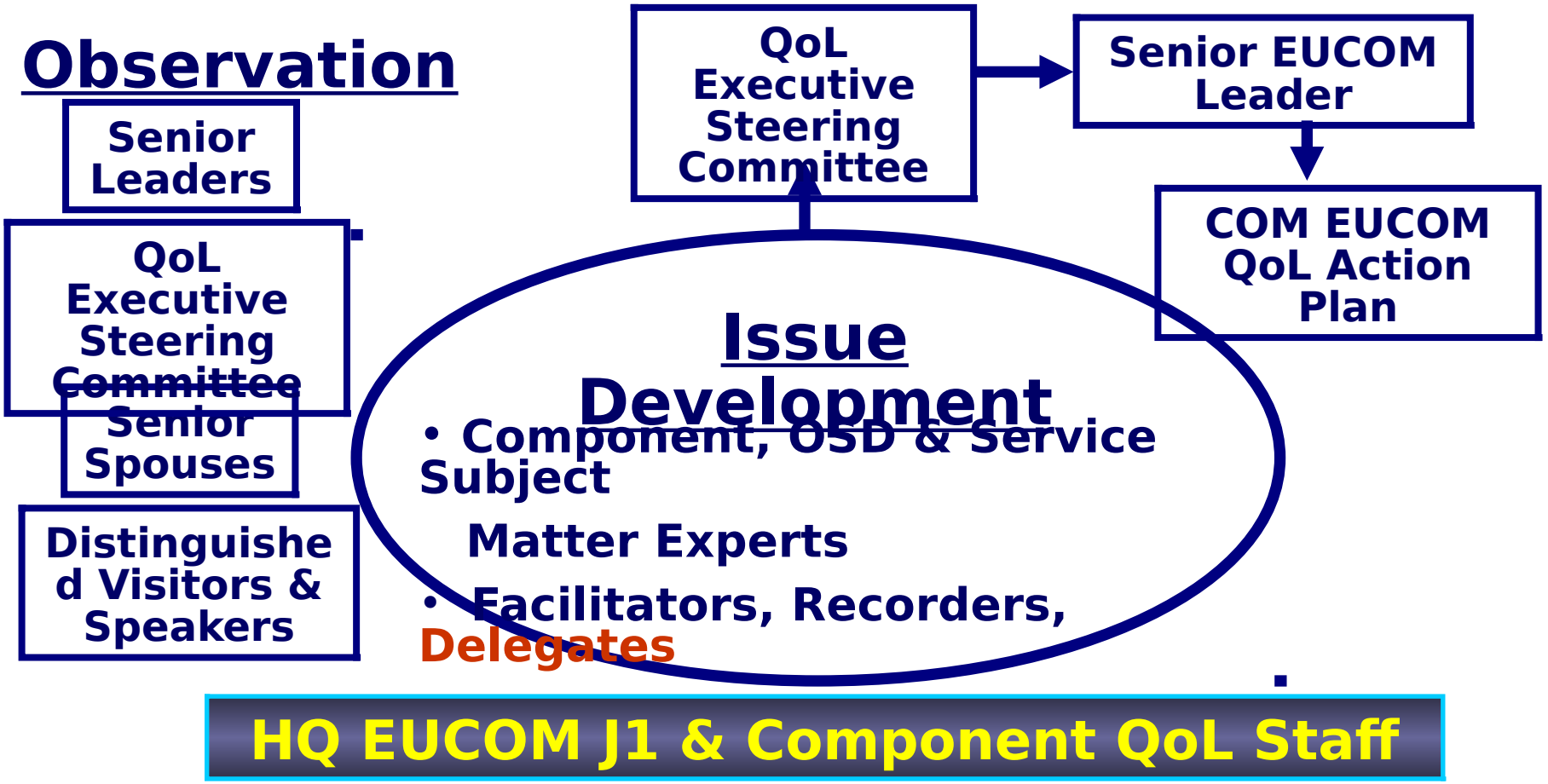
USEUCOM Report Card

Senior Leader Priorities & Congressional Testimony

Senior Leader Commitment

QoL Bill of Rights

# EUCOM QoL Conference Team



# QoL Victories

- **President Bush's State of the Union Address:  Spouse tuition assistance, MGIB Transferability, Family Deployment Support**
- **School uniform funding for UK children**
- **Enhanced remote location medical support**
- **Eliminated up-front dental service payment requirements**
- **Improved outreach to families of deployed service members**
- **Expanded child and youth services for spouses and children of deployed service members**
- **Developed the joint healthcare access marketing coalition**
- **Enhanced childcare delivery and support**
- **Focused the command on improving theater community counseling services and support**
- **Created web support for single site employment listings**
- **Army Family Covenant = $10M for USAREUR/IMCOM-E Programs**

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# Quality-of-life conference seeks solutions

## Meeting in Germany lets servicemembers propose fixes to bureaucratic holes

BY CHARLIE COON
*Stars and Stripes*

STUTTGART, Germany — In 2006, a sergeant serving as a delegate at the U.S. European Command Quality of Life Conference pointed out a simple inequity.

Boswell

Single soldiers, the sergeant noted, were getting short-changed on their cost-of-living allowances, or COLA.

In the 1970s — when the cash allowances were devised — single soldiers weren't allowed to have appliances and other electronics in their rooms, so they weren't shopping for those items off base, and thus weren't receiving money to help pay for them.

Electronics are now allowed in barracks rooms, but as of 2006 soldiers still were not receiving allowances that reflected their buying habits. Because the sergeant raised the issue, the allowance rule is being changed, giving single soldiers a little more money starting in October 2009.

OK, so changes in bureaucracies don't happen at light speed. But they can happen when delegates bring them up, which is the hope for next week when the yearly conference takes place in Garmisch, Germany.

"We, as a team, take everything back with us (from the conference)," said Wayne Boswell, EUCOM's quality-of-life chief. "Then we come up with solutions.

"One person in a focus group at our conference changed a whole policy for the Department of Defense."

More flexible child care, anti-gang education, and e-mail snags plaguing reservists are among 17 issues that have been resolved in recent years after being brought up at the conferences.

About 65 delegates from EUCOM's 93-nation area of responsibility have been assigned to the conference. They include servicemembers, spouses, civilians and teens.

"We try to get a true grass-roots representation," Boswell said.

It's their job to bring up issues such as the unfair COLA.

The delegates will be divided into five groups and hash over issues in each area: two community life groups, along with groups on health care, entitlements and deployments. Experts in each area would be placed in the groups to provide background.

Sometimes programs already exist that could address problems that come up. Getting the military's mini-bureaucracies to work together is also one of the goals.

"Where are the programs out there, and how do you make them more pertinent and visible to the people overseas?" said Paul Jerome, another EUCOM quality-of-life official.

The yearly conferences started in 1996 to address the military's massive drawdown in Europe in the early- to mid-1990s.

Jerome

The goal, Jerome said, was to see if the correct assets were in place to support the remaining troops and families.

After a hiatus from 2001 to 2003, the conferences began again in 2004. The effect of deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan has since become one of the key drivers of recent conference topics.

"There is an issue that is discussed in each of the focus groups that is deployment-related," Boswell said.

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### Turning talk into action

Issues raised in recent U.S. European Command Quality of Life Conferences that have been addressed (not all resolved)

- Expanded youth health programs
- Child care flexibility, funding, staffing and food reimbursement
- Remote-site child care services
- Time-in-grade restrictions for general-service promotions
- Career-status issues for family members
- Anti-gang education
- Funding transportation for college students
- Shared substance-abuse programs
- Cost-of-living allowances for single soldiers
- Technology restrictions for reservists
- Support, intervention and counseling for children of deployed troops
- Deployment-support activities for children
- Restrictions to family-readiness funds

Source: U.S. European Command

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# Quality of Life

## It's the people
## … and the mission

## HAVE A FUN WEEK!

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